

SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



Primary Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of this team are to search homes/structures and to rescue individuals who need help. Team members will:

- ◆ Assess all the rescue situations before entering any structure where individuals are reportedly trapped or injured
- ◆ Triage* and attempt rescue only when it is safe to do so

Preparedness Checklist

Lists and Forms

Make sure your clipboard has these lists and forms:

- Neighborhood Utilities Map (A-89)*
- CORE Family Roster (A-79)*
- Tools and Equipment (A-85)*
- Quick Field Team Reminders (A-91)*
- Status Cards [2 per house] (A-99)*
- Preliminary Damage Assessment (A-101)*

** Triage comes from the French verb “to sort,” and generally refers to the act of quickly (within one minute) evaluating victims. In situations where there are multiple rescue efforts needed, however, the term triage is used to refer to the process of quickly evaluating which rescues should be attempted and the order in which they should be prioritized. The decision will be based on an assessment of which rescue situation will yield the greatest results in the shortest amount of time, the number of rescuers required for the effort compared with the number of rescuers who are available, and which situation is the least hazardous to the rescue team itself.*



Search & Rescue: Victims Log (A-107)

This log is used to record information **before** the victim is taken to or treated at the First Aid Station. When completed, return forms to the ICC. Later, the information will be included in the *Disaster Information Summary*.

Special Needs: Medical and Other (A-109)

Before a disaster, use this form to fill in the name, address and special needs sections. (Identify neighbors who need special assistance by referring to the *CORE Family Roster*.) Keep copies at the ICC, Main Shelter and First Aid Station. **After** a disaster, use copies of your partially completed form to indicate who has checked these individuals and whether assistance is needed (e.g., type of equipment, medication, English translation).

Additional Responsibilities

- Store special items** like ropes, crowbars, shovels, cribbing materials, power or hand saws, 2x4's, masking tape, and carpenter's chalk in two places: at home and in/near the ICC.
- Review the Search & Rescue Guidelines** on the following page.
- Teach neighbors how to indicate whether or not they need help after a disaster. By displaying a **white cloth** in an area visible from the street, neighbors will know that you are okay for the moment.
- Become familiar with **potential hazards** that are unique to your particular neighborhood.
- Take the **CORE III** Search & Rescue class.
- Practice** lifting and cribbing skills with others.

Search & Rescue Team Response Checklist



- Gather your personal supplies, assess your own home and family and report to the ICC. There you will be assigned in groups of 2-3 people to specific search and rescue situations in your neighborhood.

Search & Rescue Guidelines

Keep this list with you at all times.

Search

- Always work with at least one **partner**. Never attempt to search alone.
- Only search structures** that have been **assigned** to you by your team manager. Check homes that do not have a white flag displayed first. If you find a potential search situation that has not been reported, send a runner to the ICC with that information.
- Before approaching a house, stand on the sidewalk and assess it for the **possibility of collapse or other hazards**. Some buildings should be assessed as a “No Go” because of potential hazards that face the rescuers (e.g., collapse, fire, hot wires, hazardous materials, vicious animal).
- Before entering a building:
 - **Smell** the air for possible **gas** leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking, do not enter the building before turning off the main gas valve and ventilating the house.
 - Turn off other **damaged utilities** (electric/water) if necessary.
 - Check the **door** with the **back** of your hand to see if the door is hot. If it is, do not open it. There is probably a fire inside.
 - Check the door jamb and walls around the door for serious **cracks** that indicate the building is not safe to enter.
 - Put a bold, readily visible piece of **tape** diagonally across the door upon entering. Make a second slash, forming an “X,” on leaving.
- Once inside the building:
 - **Stay as low** as possible. Continue to watch for hazards.
 - Systematically search **each room**, moving along the wall to your right as you go. If you become disoriented, reverse your steps, staying close to the wall until you get back to the doorway. Throughout your search, maintain voice contact with your partner so you do not get separated.

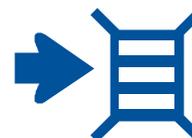




- **Call out** “it’s your neighbor” and give your name. **Shout, tap, and listen** for any cries or moans. Tap on the wall and listen for tapping back. The sound of tapping on the walls will often carry farther than a voice. Ask if they need help and keep talking as you walk through the building.
- In **dark rooms**, use your flashlight to carefully look under furniture and beds because children often hide when frightened. Also check stairwells, tubs, showers and closets. Periodically stop and listen for noise. Use your flashlight to continue to check ceilings, walls and floors for danger signs.

Rescue

- ❑ Assist **trapped or injured** victims in the following sequence:
 - ambulatory victims
 - lightly trapped victims
 - heavily trapped victims
- ❑ When you find victims, **evaluate** their condition to determine whether or not they can be moved safely. If you need to leave them, try to place a table over them to protect them from falling objects. Offer reassurance that someone will come back for them.
- ❑ Arrange **transportation** (e.g., vehicles, stretchers) with the ICC to move injured neighbors to the First Aid Station or to other medical facilities.
- ❑ **Report** injuries to the ICC using walkie-talkies or runners. Record injuries using both the *Status Cards* and *Search & Rescue: Victims Log* and return them to the ICC.
- ❑ If people with **special needs** are found, advise the ICC to notify the Sheltering & Special Needs Team. Use the *Special Needs: Medical and Other* form and return it to the ICC.
- ❑ If a deceased person is found, advise the ICC to notify the First Aid Team that is in charge of setting up the morgue. Leave the body there until all rescues are completed.
- ❑ Report to the ICC if you need any **additional help** for a rescue.



Remember safety comes first

- **Size up** all rescue situations *before* entering the structure. Reassess the situation continuously.
- **Do not** enter any building that is in danger of collapse, fire or explosion.
- **Do not** take unnecessary risks.
- **Do not attempt** a rescue unless you feel certain that you and your partner will be able to remove the person safely.



CORE Family Roster



Street	Family Name	Children's Names (Ages)	School	Phone Number	Emergency Housing*	Pets
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Updated: _____

*how many people you could accommodate in your home

(d) = dog
(c) = cat



Tools and Equipment

Tools & Equipment

Name

Address

Communications

Heavy Tools

Light Tools

Tools & Equipment

Name

Address

Vehicles

Camping Equipment

First Aid Supplies

Water Supply

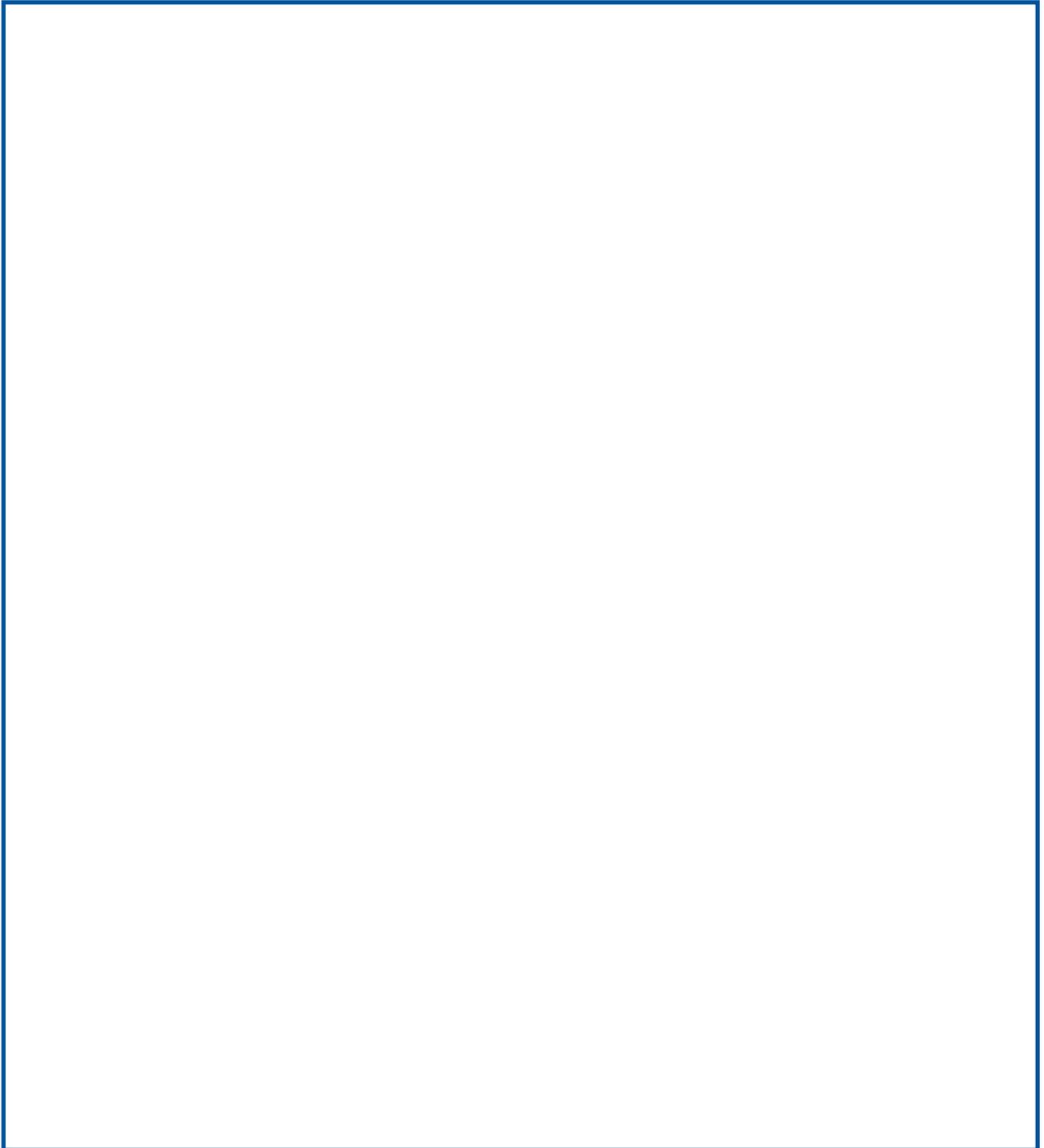
Updated: _____



Neighborhood Utilities Map

Review guidelines on pages 8 and 9 and see Neighborhood Utilities Map Sample on page 21.

Updated: _____





Quick Field Team Reminders



This list is to be kept on the clipboard in your emergency backpack. Use it after completing your Individual Response Checklist (29). The following reminders combine the needs and responsibilities of the field teams in case the number of responders is limited.

SUPPLIES

- Protective clothing
- Small tools/supplies: wrenches, rope, caution tape
- Emergency backpack
- Clipboard: forms and maps attached

HAZARD REDUCTION/UTILITIES

- Extinguish small fires
- Turn off damaged utilities (gas, water, electric)
- Clear debris from street and sidewalks
- Rope off hazardous areas
- Confine loose pets
- Locate neighborhood water sources

SEARCH & RESCUE

- Check the door jamb and walls around the door for serious cracks and other indications that the building may not be safe to enter.
- Put a bold, readily visible piece of masking tape across the door upon entering [\]. Make a second slash [/], forming an “X” upon leaving.

Gas:

- Before entering a building, **smell** the air for possible gas leaks.
- If you **smell** or hear **gas** leaking, **do not enter** the building before turning off the gas main.
- Ventilate** the building by opening as many doors and windows as possible.
- Wait** until the smell of gas is gone before entering or attempting a search or rescue.

Fire:

- Check the door** with the **back** of your hand to see if it is hot. If it is, DO NOT open it. Alert the ICC. If the door is cool, open it cautiously.
- Stay low.**

Victims:

- When in the building, **call out** “it’s your neighbor” and give your name. **Stop. Shout-tap-listen** for any cries or moans. Keep talking as you move through the building.
- Evaluate the building and the victims’ conditions to determine whether or not they can be **moved safely**.
- If you need to leave, place a **table over them** to protect them from falling objects. Reassure them that someone will come back for them.
- Report to the ICC if you need additional help.

STATUS CARD



STATUS CARD



Address: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Utilities Checked

Gas: OK Turned Off
Water: OK Turned Off
Electricity: OK Turned Off

House Searched

Exterior: Yes No Interior: Yes No

If no, explain: _____

Victims removed: Yes No Number: _____

Comments: _____

Dwelling checked by: _____

Team: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Utilities Checked

Gas: OK Turned Off
Water: OK Turned Off
Electricity: OK Turned Off

House Searched

Exterior: Yes No Interior: Yes No

If no, explain: _____

Victims removed: Yes No Number: _____

Comments: _____

Dwelling checked by: _____

Team: _____

Tape this form visibly on the front of the house.

Return this form to the Incident Command Center ASAP.

